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Kicking off a carnival

Algonquin Highlands Mayor Liz Danielsen cuts the ribbon to officially open the Dorset Snowball Winter Festival on Saturday, Feb. 18.
/Submitted by Chad Ingram



AH adopts shorter workweek, long weekend

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Extending employees' weekend through a compressed workweek would go a long way toward making Algonquin Highlands a preferred employer.

Mayor Liz Danielsen broached that idea during council's regular meeting Feb. 16. That thought is based on feedback from staff

surveyed after they participated in a shortened week trial period.

Council voted in favour of adopting shorter workweeks for municipal staff starting March 1.

Municipal administration staff participated in a compressed workweek trial program last year. Two staff members opted not to participate in the program, for personal reasons.

Two teams worked either Monday to Thursday or Tuesday to Friday. Their hours

were between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. The two-team approach was utilized to pair employees with overlapping or complimentary knowledge, skillsets and responsibilities to ensure no impact on productivity or business continuity.

The trial program was to measure any enhanced customer service with five additional hours per week; improved workplace morale by extending weekends; an innovative recruitment and retention opportunity without

incurring any additional corporate expenses; and reducing carbon emissions by having staff commute to work one less day per week.

All staff that participated support a permanent compressed workweek.

Angie Bird, the town's CAO, said there were some hiccups at the program's beginning. But they were resolved.

"In the beginning there were some challenges with staffing to make sure that if see AH HOPING page 3

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Cold hands, warm hearts

Shawn Smandych of Ommmh Boutique + Eat Cheeserie and Cocktails was serving hot tomato soup for visitors at Minden's Fire and Ice on Feb. 19. /TIM YANO Special to the *Times*



Phil Dulong connects with Tom Dawson of Wintergreen Maple Products after winning the door prize at Fire and Ice. The event - hosted by the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation - saw nearly 80 attendees and raised over \$1400 for programming at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.



Visitors were able to stay inside with the food and drinks, or visit the property of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, where warm bonfires were lit for the evening.

AH draft budget sees 3.25% increase to taxpayers

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Algonquin Highlands' 2023 draft budget includes a proposed 3.25 per cent levy increase to taxpayers.

Jean Hughes, the township's treasurer, delivered a draft of the municipality's 2023 spending plan during a pair of meetings Feb. 15 and 16. That's an extra \$12.63 over last year for every \$100,000 assessed value of property.

"This has been a difficult year to prepare a budget and bring it in at a reasonable level," said Mayor Liz Danielsen. "There's been a lot of soul searching and hard work that's been done to get us to this point."

In her report to council, Hughes said the township's Ontario Municipal Partnership Funding grant decreased in 2023 by five per cent. And there was a 2.3 per cent decrease in policing costs.

She said the overall loss of revenue is about \$44,800.00.

And, she said, the municipality's insurance costs rose by about 30 per cent this year.

For 2023, the township will see a possible reduction of about 19 per cent to reserves funds. Ten per cent of that reduction is to pay for the Dorset Recreation Centre project and

60 per cent is reallocated revenues and year-end surpluses from prior years.

"All in all, it's a good news document, a good budget," Hughes said.

The meeting included a departmental breakdown of capital needs.

The firefighting service inked such requests as forest fire safety gear, upgrades to its communications, a replacement defibrillator, and replacement radios.

Besides the annual training courses, the fire department would like to buy rapid deployment craft, a new utility vehicle, and a Zodiac watercraft.

Danielsen the fire service is crucial for Algonquin Highlands residents.

"For what they offer us and for the danger, I know that they're compensated for the training that they take, I believe they should receive some more type of consideration," the mayor said.

"I know that we do station wear and there's certain bling associated with the fire department, but that's not cutting it in my estimation."

Dorset Recreation Centre upgrades were not completed in 2022 as planned, so it's hoped the work will proceed this year. The project's estimated costs were to be covered by money from township reserves without the need for loans.

Council reallocated the previous year's money to the project and will allocate one-time revenue. It's hoped that will be sufficient funds to complete the project in 2023, based on the original estimate.

And it's that point of detail, that the work can be done based on the initial 2022 estimate, that has Danielsen worried.

"We really are going to get a horrible shock when it comes to tendering the Dorset Rec Centre," she said. "It's going to be far more (money). There's been a lot of work to try and bring in every bit of funding that we can find to put towards that, that it's going to come in a lot higher than that."

"I'm just not sure how we want to approach that challenge."

Adam Thorn, the public works manager, said staff has had some thoughts in anticipation of that very issue. A number of big projects are on the horizon and funding has been a concern, he said.

Thorn said staff is probably two months away from when they can present council with number regarding project costs.

"The review process for this tender is a little bit different than what we've done in the past, just given the size of the project and the costs associated to it," he said.

"So there is going to be quite a bit of back and forth between contractors to just ensure that we're getting the best price and we're making sure that everyone is on that level playing field."

Unpacking the idea of basic income

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

"Poverty isn't a lack of character; it's a lack of cash." That is the concept presented by historian Rutger Bregman during a 2017 TED Talk on basic income. The theory of universal basic income (BI) is that all residents would receive a guaranteed income through unconditional transfer payment. This would mean that members of the population would not have to prove anything to be deserving of a life above the poverty line.

This concept was presented to a group of people on Feb. 8, during a meeting held in the downstairs of the Highland Hills United Church in Minden. As folks sipped tea in a semi-circle around Judy Paul, the facilitator of the session, they were asked why they were in attendance. The consistent response was "to learn more about what basic income is." And so, the conversation began to unfold from there.

This group was formed from a series of interested citizens, who believed that there are options beyond the norm of polarized income. As was noted in the meeting, this issue is particularly prevalent in Haliburton County. In the County of Haliburton Community Safety Wellbeing Plan that was presented in 2022, it was confirmed that the county has the second highest cost of living in Ontario at \$19.47. This is second only to Toronto. The provincial average of those considered low-income is 12.3 per cent, with Haliburton County surpassing that at 17.2 per cent. Amongst this percentage, 23 per cent are children living in poverty.

At the meeting, it was discussed whether BI would rectify this staggering statistic. "If we had a national basic income, it could provide economic security for people in Haliburton working minimum wage jobs, people who don't get full-time hours on a regular basis, those who work seasonally and those who are self-employed," said Paul.

In the wellbeing plan, it was also identified that Haliburton County struggles with a higher unemployment rate (9.6 per cent) than the provincial average (7.4 per cent). The plan states "The employment profile is characterized by low-wage jobs and high Ontario works enrolment rates, particularly among 30 to 39-year-olds."

Paul believes that BI would support this demographic who are struggling with the cost of life in the county. "We have a significant percentage of young people on social assistance," she said, "and if they are struggling with mental health issues, addictions or homelessness, a BI would go a long way to stabilize their lives."

Yet, the concept of BI is far from being formalized. It was originally discussed over 500 years ago, by writer and philosopher Thomas More, who outlined the concept in his book, *Utopia*. Since then, it has been discussed widely in socio-economic circles, yet not fully adopted in any country as of yet, despite a series of trials implemented in cities around the



Facilitator Judy Paul engaged a group of interested citizens during a conversation on the logistics of basic income on Feb. 8. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

world.

"Two of the biggest issues we face are, how will we pay for a BI and the belief that people won't work if they get a BI," said Paul. This is a common concern circulating around the BI conversations, yet Paul believes that if BI was practiced properly, it would actually have the opposite effect. "BI would enable people to go back to school or take some training because they would be able to cover their living expenses while attending a program and have less debt when they are finished."

There are quantitative factors to BI, such as the logistics of

doling it out in a community that has municipal, provincial, and federal taxes, as well as qualitative considerations, such as quality of life and incentive to work. Yet it's a topic that has sparked interest in the area. Paul has intentions of continuing the conversation with council members, service clubs, regional economic development partners, and interested members of the community. There is hope that these conversations will snowball into a formalized group who will follow-through with putting the concept into practice for the county as a whole.

AH hoping to be 'preferred employer'

from page 1

somebody was on holidays we had the proper coverage," she said. "After those challenges were experienced, that smoothed out very quickly."

By way of the survey, staff said the shortened workweek brought an improved work-life balance and higher morale.

"All of staff, everyone that I have talked to, (said) it has been an incredible improvement in their life," Bird said. "I think that's incredibly important to note."

Danielsen said she's heard from council colleagues that there's support for continuing with compressed work weeks.

"I do think that it puts us in a position to be preferred employer," the mayor said. "We all know the difficulties we've had seeking staff to fill positions. That's a problem across the county and the province and, I'm sure, the country."

Councillor Sabrina Richards said she supports a compressed workweek.

"I think it's really good for everyone," Richards said. "I

wish I could get the same."

"Me, too," Danielsen said.

"That's the fault of my own life," Richards quipped. "I did notice in the comments there was one about when it falls on a statutory holiday week. I kind of felt sympathy for the point because you do feel like you're not really getting the stat holiday anymore with having that four-day workweek."

Danielsen said that would be something to be cognizant about.

"This may evolve over time," she said.

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux suggested the schedule be made permanent.

If council decides to adopt such a schedule, Bird said staff would be able to participate or opt out for the seven-day workweek.

"But if you are opting out right now, that doesn't mean that you're opting out for 20 years," she said. "We'll work with those staff as it comes."

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Never smoke around medical oxygen. Medical oxygen can explode if a flame or spark is nearby. Even if the oxygen is turned off, it can still catch on fire.

Never smoke in bed. Mattresses and bedding can catch on fire easily. Do not smoke in bed because you might fall asleep with a lit cigarette.

Put your cigarette out in an ashtray or bucket with sand. Use ashtrays with a wide base so they won't tip over and start a fire.

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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Members of the Public will participate electronically, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

February 23 – Regular Council Meeting

March 2 – Special Council Meeting – 2023 Budget Deliberations

March 9 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our website at mindenhills.ca/council/. Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

The 2023 Interim tax bills will be mailed by March 1, 2023. If you have not received your bill(s) prior to the March due date, please contact our office. The Interim tax bill will be payable in two installments: March 24th and May 19th, 2023. This bill has been calculated using the 2022 annualized assessment multiplied by 50% of the 2022 applicable tax rate(s).

Payments received after February 20th may not be reflected on your tax bill. Please note that any overdue amounts do not include penalty/interest for February and March. Please contact our office for a current balance.

Property owners are responsible to provide to the Municipal Office written notification of any address change. Failure to receive your tax bill does not exempt penalty charges from being applied to a tax account.

NOTICE – 2023 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence its 2nd round of the 2023 Budget deliberations during its Special Council Meeting scheduled for March 2, 2023. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

Greg Bedard, Director of Finance/Treasurer • 705-286-1260 ext. 504 • gbedard@mindenhills.ca

WASTE REDUCTION TIPS

Buy hand soap, dish detergent, laundry detergent and cleaning supplies in bulk to save money and reduce plastic waste in your home. If you need to transfer the bulk product into a smaller container, rinse out and re-use the last container you bought.

Take the "pantry challenge"! Find creative recipes on the internet to use up staples in the cupboard before you go shopping.

'So long for now' - Minden River Cone takes a break

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It's becoming more and more common; a Minden business closing its doors, waiting for times to ease up.

That's what the Minden River Cone has had to do.

The relatively new business is run by Ben and Monica Scott, who moved to Minden in 2018. "We fell in love with the area," said Monica, "and we used to go to the River Cone all the time, so when it became available, we both stepped away from career jobs and jumped in."

The couple took ownership in January of 2021, and the space had been left without being properly cleaned or maintained. They invested time, money, and energy into creating a community hub that everyone would utilize. "We just really wanted to do something cool for the community," shared Monica.

Ben had spent over a decade in the food industry, and had the vision to create a facility that would offer "elevated takeout." And that is what they did; serving chef-inspired fast food with local ingredients and homemade recipes. They particularly wanted to create an alternative to the typical fast food along the highway, enticing locals and visitors to come into the downtown core.

Opening a restaurant during the height of a pandemic may seem like a questionable choice, but Ben and Monica were cognizant that standard indoor facilities were not open, therefore the restaurants providing takeout were the only local options.

With the new ownership, a creative element was introduced to the area. Ben and Monica hosted Halloween parties for the community, incorporated a bouncy castle for celebratory events, and added a unique and eye-catching bike rack to their front yard, which they decorated seasonally.

On top of the property add-ons, the couple also converted the front of the facility into a user-friendly and accessible takeout area. They added a sheltered seasonal dining tent out the back of the building, hosting topographic maps of Haliburton county, and bringing a sense of park-like joy to the location for all visitors and a holistic pride in the community.

Since opening, the River Cone had been adamantly supported by visitors, locals, and businesses. Monica and Ben



Ben and Monica Scott have chosen to close down the River Cone until warmer weather and easier times. The restaurant is a hub for locals and visitors in the Minden downtown core. /Photo submitted

noted that they received support from the OPP, hydro workers, hospitals, schools, and Minden Hills councillors and staff. They worked to build a strong and supportive team, and it became a space that was welcoming, warm, and above all, fun.

On the surface, the business was booming. Yet, slowly but surely, the complications began to mount. "We ran into a lot of problems with the building itself," said Ben, explaining that the challenges were not limited to the difficulty of winterizing, which is a common problem in the area.

They shared that many individuals continued to assume they only sold ice cream, due to the physical shape of the cone building. They noted that guests were impressed, but surprised, when they discovered the menu. "It's a double-edged sword. It's a unique building but also gives a limited impression of what we offer," said Ben.

They also addressed the abundance of red tape they encountered from the Township of Minden Hills. They ran into a series of building issues when it came to opening up the business, and the challenges continued as they had visions of expanding, citing that zoning requirements were steep and restrictive.

One of the examples they shared with the *Times* was when

they went before council to suggest a skating rink at their location. "We thought it would be a win-win," said Monica. "The skating rink already exists, but it's just out of view. We thought we could encourage people to spend a day right here in Minden if they had activities to do in the core. It's not just for the River Cone; we believed this would be great for the whole community."

The idea was unanimously supported by locals, friends, and other businesses, and was even received favourably by council initially. But the idea fizzled out due to the location of a fire hydrant on the property, and a drain on Orde Street that would be covered with the rink.

Monica and Ben tried to communicate with the municipal staff; offering options, alternatives, and outside the box ideas, but they were met with silence. "Having a strong local business community means we need a receptive attitude, creativity, and initiative," said Monica. "We were trying everything, but we just didn't get that support."

The *Times* reached out to the municipality, and received information that staff did not recall exactly why the initiative had stalled, but that it was a council decision overall.

The most recent instance of red-tape was when Monica and Ben were denied a Heatline installation at the facility. The two were going in hours before opening each morning to warm up their water pipes with hair dryers. They brought in professionals to assess and survey the plausibility of a locally-made Heatline system being installed to protect the main water line.

They were given the greenlight to proceed by professionals, only for it to be halted by the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA), citing municipal water safety concerns.

Shortly after, during a bitter cold day, Ben and Monica came into the restaurant and found that pipes were frozen again. "And that was it," said Monica, "we were done." While the decision to halt the Heatline had since been reversed by OCWA, it was too late in the season to proceed. With rising food prices, competitive labour costs, high utility fees, and slow tourism months, they opted to throw in the towel until brighter days return.

The couple understands the need for rules and regulations, and told the *Times* they would go above and beyond to make sure they were up to par. "We just wanted to be able to talk to someone. We need the municipality to find ways to work with us instead of giving us reasons to say no," said Monica.

The River Cone is planning on opening its doors once the world warms up a bit, "We will keep rocking the River Cone in the summer," said Ben. But in the meantime, both have returned to alternative jobs, and are continuing to plan for the summer season. In their public statement in regards to closing, they stated "To our amazing regulars that have supported us through thick and thin, we are going to miss you!...So long for now."

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HHSS' junior girls Nordic ski team brings home COSSA gold.



Violet Humphries places second in the COSSA junior girls division on Tuesday, Feb. 14. /KAREN GERVAIS Special to the Times

HHSS Nordic skiers head to OFSAA

by KAREN GERVAIS
Special to the Times

After a stressful scramble to move our COSSA meet to Tuesday to escape the rainy and warm Wednesday weather forecast of last week, the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Ski team continued to impress on the snow.

Our junior girls team brought home COSSA gold, with Violet Humphries leading the Hawks in second, completing the 5k course in 17:03. Erika Hoare followed in fourth, Ella Gervais fifth, Olivia Gruppe sixth and Grace Allder eighth.

The junior girls team of Violet, Erika, Ella and Olivia raced an impressive short course relay in the afternoon, beating out even the junior boys teams to finish the 4x900m race in 12:44.8 on slow and melting snow.

The coaches were also really impressed with new skiers Hannah Sharp, Teagan Hamilton and Haiden Bird, who took a leap to compete in the 5k competitive division after just beginning to ski this year. This was twice the distance they had raced previously. Haiden Bird finished sixth in junior boys and Hannah was ninth and Teagan 11th in junior girls. All the athletes have shown marked improvement in times with technique coming together and seeing the results of condi-

tioning work.

In the senior girls 7k race, Olivia Humphries skied to a fast second place finish, completing the course in 24:07.5 only 0.8 seconds behind the leader from St. Peter, a skier who skis regularly for a competitive club and is a year older than Humphries.

All of our skiers have qualified for the OFSAA Nordic Championships. The individual distance races will be held at Lakefield on the 23rd and the spring relays at Kawartha Nordic on Feb. 24.



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Of food insecurity and misdirected protest

OF ALL community organizations, the local food bank shouldn't be permitted to fall on hard times for all the good it does.

Don Veno, the chairperson of the Minden Community Food Centre, recently appeared before Minden Hills town council. He asked that council include a \$10,000 grant in the 2023 municipal budget for the food centre. Council will consider the request as part of its budget discussions.

Locally, the food centre helped more than 2,600 individuals in 2022. Veno said that nearly 40 per cent of them were children under 12 years old, and more than 20 per cent were between the ages of 65 and 95 years old.

Canada-wide, food banks have seen an average increase in need by more than 35 per cent over the last two years, he said.

That's a vivid picture of woe. Those are numbers that speak of sleepless nights spent tossing and turning in the bunk.

Minden Hills Councillor Pam Sayne said such stressors have been increasing in the community.

"It affects everything we do," she said. "People's mental health, the stress levels that we're seeing when people don't have that basic food security."

Wouldn't it be nice if every food bank was flush with the resources needed to provide the help more people have recently started to need? For parents trying to stretch a dime, the local food bank is a measure of reassurance that your world won't become as dire as you fear it is. You know? At least you'll be able to feed the kids and maybe they won't become hip to the household's troubles.

And these are troublesome times.

Inflation swelled as high as eight per cent last year. That extra weight hoisted upon us in mere months flattened many household budgets. Making the mortgage alone, if you're not locked in on your interest rate when the rates were lower, became a stomach-twisting dance with dread. One's quiet moments, the wee hours when worry tends to be loudest

in your head, become unwieldy with an oppressive anxiety that can loosen one's bowels.

Don't fret much longer, friends. The Bank of Canada is pulling levers and looking out for your best interests, as a Crown corporation should. But when the central bank raises interest rates to stave off a recession, commercial banks and their shareholders enjoy a windfall. Banks already make obscene profits every quarter. Bankers and politicians with their highfalutin education believe making life difficult for regular people is helping the economy. Newsflash: Regular people and their recreational spending ability is what drives the economy.

You'd think there'd be a protest or something. Maybe some kind of flag that people driving pickup trucks can fly from the back. Pretty sure it's been done before for less pressing causes, imagined or real.

This time last year was marked by the so-called Freedom Convoy. It was all anybody could talk about. Truck drivers, lionized by much of the public, disrupted the lives

of people, tormented Ottawa residents, because of a myth. You remember how mere inconvenience was sold as a nefarious attack on freedom? To hinder COVID-19's spread, truck drivers weren't permitted to cross the Canada-U.S. border without proof of vaccination. Or they had to quarantine. And, well, they said that eroded everybody's personal freedom instead of just the minority of people it affected. That's what brought the heavy trucks, blaring air horns to Ottawa, Alberta, the Ambassador Bridge, wherever else.

Soon, other reasons by varied interests were attached to the protest as days turned into weeks. People had a cause to support and internet crowdfunding websites were started.

Food insecurity and the plight of the working poor in an unfair world is a social cause to get behind. It's a noble reason people should raise their voices to the deciding class.



JAMES MATTHEWS
LJI Reporter

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Kwarky



"If your spirit is with us, play the next song."

Sounds fishy to me

LAST WEEK I was reading about a University of Illinois study about muskie – and, to be honest, it sounded fishy to me.

The short story is the researchers raised 68 muskie and rated them on four behavioural characteristics. Then they released them in a pond.

Here's the fishy part.

To complete their study, they then fished for those released muskie for a full month. They said it was so they could ascertain which characteristics made these big predatory fish more susceptible to being caught. So, after a full month of angling for them, they determined the fish that were caught were larger, less aggressive, and less exploratory.

Oh sure it looks like a month-long, paid fishing vacation on the surface. But it was not.

They merely fished for a month. For muskie. In a stocked pond.

Before you get all judgmental, it's called science.

Bravo good sirs! I doff my chapeau to you all! Well played.

Coincidentally, I am a bit of a citizen scientist. As such, I am now doing preliminary research for a paper about stress reduction techniques. The initial part of the study had me record and rate four characteristic of my stress for the last month. I now have a baseline of my blood pressure, my pulse, my level of throwing things at TV newscasters, and the number of times I shake my fist at other drivers and yell, "Dag-nabbit!"

I now have a scientific baseline.

The next part of the research, should I get the appropriate public or university funding, will be in the Bahamas, where I will spend a month or so researching, by alternately, relaxing on a beach, fly fishing for bonefish, drinking margaritas, and eating copious amounts of fresh seafood. Throughout those



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

activities, I will be working hard, evaluating my stress characteristics and comparing them to the baseline levels I determined here at home.

I know this might sound suspicious, but I am trying to definitively determine, in a scientific manner, if a change of environment and a significant reduction in workload will reduce stress. Sure, we all believe this intuitively, but I think it is important that someone proves it scientifically. And I am very much willing to play the role of guinea pig. You're welcome.

This is how science moves forward. One experiment at a time. That's why I am submitting my grant applications to any institution of higher learning that will accept my hypothesis (does Trump University still exist?) and, failing success there, I will start a Go-Fund Me page. My passion for expanding our realm of knowledge will not be thwarted!

Of course, I want to thank those researchers at the University of Illinois for showing me the way. I realized why they did what they did now.

They just wanted to be there, fishing for muskies as impersonal scientific observers, with no bias or pre-conceived notions, with the new rods, reels and baits they now had funding to buy.

That's why, after they fished the pond for a month and caught seven muskies, they revealed their findings, which essentially confirmed that muskies are not the easiest fish in the world to catch – unless they are already in a comfortable lie waiting in ambush.

I get it. They have gathered the scientific evidence required so that others can build upon this knowledge.

As a citizen scientist, I am impressed by their methodology, but I feel more research (with live bait or big flies) is needed.

Next time. Perhaps we could collaborate.

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

The threat from above

I'M EATING my cereal and staring out the kitchen window when M arrives at the bird bath, now filled with seed for feathered friends not gone south.

M is Marnie, a cute and friendly pine martin who regularly stops by to check the bird feeders and to sniff out any snacks spilled at the compost bin.

Usually, I am pleased to see her. She is an endearing critter with silky fur – mostly brownish black, but grey-tan on a face featuring soft dark eyes that give her a loveable look.

I'm not so pleased to see her today. She has arrived as I am reading some alarming news.

The morning newspapers are reporting that the H5N1 virus - commonly called a bird flu - is galloping out of control. It is killing millions of chickens worldwide, and now is infecting more and more wild birds, especially waterfowl and shorebirds.

The virus led to the deaths of 52 million birds in the United States last year.

More alarming is the news that a mutant H5N1 strain is infecting mink, which continue to be raised by the millions on fur farms.

Mink are excellent virus mixing vessels. They harbour both human and avian viruses and can produce mutant strains transmissible to humans. They carried the COVID-19 virus and are believed to have generated two new Covid variants that spread to humans.

Mink belong to the weasel family and so does my pine marten friend Marnie. So, there is concern that if H5N1 goes unchecked in mink farms it could spread to similar animals like pine marten and other mammals such as we humans.

H5N1 has been around for two or three decades but rarely is found in humans. That's a good thing because the virus is deadly. There have been fewer than 900 human cases worldwide in the past 20 years, but 53 percent of those have been fatal.

Medical researchers are worried that H5N1 strains produced by mink will spread like wildfire through wild birds, small mammals and into human populations. They warn of an H5N1 pandemic that could take tens of millions of human lives.

One way to help curtail H5N1 spread is to stop fur farming. Animal rights groups say more than 100 million animals a year are raised and killed for their fur. Most are mink and fox. They cite abuse as one reason for ending fur farming.

Mink are crowded into small cages until they are ready to be killed through gassing or electrocution. Some are fed food containing poultry, which can contain avian flu viruses.

Their skins are used to make coats, winter boots and mittens that keep people warm. Mink fur is dense with thousands of hairs per square centimeter, making it one of the densest and softest furs available.

The fur also is used to decorate purses, hats and even keychains.

However, pressure from animal rights groups, plus more evidence of zoonotic diseases have been hitting fur farming hard. Production of fur in the European Union fell from 38 million animal skins in 2018 to about 11 million in 2021.

Technology has given us alternatives to animal fur, and more people are accepting them. Revenue from the global faux fur market was estimated at 24.7 billion dollars U.S. last year. It is forecast to grow at 4.8 per cent annually, reaching \$28.4 million by 2025.

Roughly two dozen countries now have banned fur farming. Fears over new virus strains coming from fur farms are expected to lead to more bans.

Canada still has fur farming but it is a business in steep decline. In 2011 there were 347 Canadian fur farming operations. Last year the number had dwindled to 97.

Meanwhile, the chances of avian influenza appearing in backyard bird baths or feeders is considered low. The federal government, however, recommends precautions such as removing feeders that are open to poultry or waterfowl.

Also, feeders should be cleaned every two weeks and disinfected with a solution of one part household bleach to nine parts water. They should be rinsed well and thoroughly dried before being reused.

Regular cleaning and disinfecting hopefully will keep all our feathered visitors, and Marnie the pine marten, H5N1 free.

letters to the editor

Where is your place in the food cycle?

To the Editor,

You know the intake of food is a daily necessity, so what are you bringing to the table each time you sit down to consume and nourish yourself.

Anyone watching the news, reading the paper or going to the grocery store is quickly waking up to the term, food security, or should I say, food insecurity. Feeling insecure about anything means that you are thinking you don't have enough, food is becoming scarce. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

What you are experiencing is not a lack of food, but a lack of abundant thought. A limited mindset.

Limitations are merely an opportunity to grow, use them as steppingstones to successful solutions. You need to outgrow your current thinking. Your mind and therefore your daily life is starving for solutions.

The first step is to stop looking outside yourself for solutions. No amount of government, grocery stores or money is going to solve your imagined food problem. Your place in the food cycle is in your head.

I am not saying you are not experiencing problems, and possibly very limiting situations. What I am saying is that shifting how you think about your current situation is the start of regrowing your daily food intake solution.

Food, like money, is a language of its own. Time to learn a new language. Time to learn what your community has to offer, time to learn

what you can bring to the table. This county's residents are stepping up to provide opportunities and solutions. Learning what you need, what is available, what works for you, with your life, and possibly your family's life is the starting point.

I am taking up this challenge, I am going to learn this new language, I am going to map my steps and progress and I am going to know what my environment, neighbors and place in the food cycle is. I will be sharing this learning at every turn, and I am going to celebrate my connections and my new language. I will never go hungry again, because I choose not to.

I am going to educate myself on what I currently need and know. What I have to offer, how it fits into the community and what I may need from the community. This is a multifaceted food cycle. Not just what I eat, but what can I afford, what is available, what do I do with my surplus?

Identify current limitations and step out of them one stone at a time. Will query community to find solutions or reframe/breakdown the chunks into more digestible steps.

I will be happily sharing my findings wherever there is food, food discussion, food distribution, food columns, food businesses and of course in the garden...you get the picture. Now let's get a group pic!

Debbie Barnhart
Dancing Scape Garlic Farm
Here in the Highlands
barnhartdebbie@gmail.com

Thanks to local doctors

To the Editor,

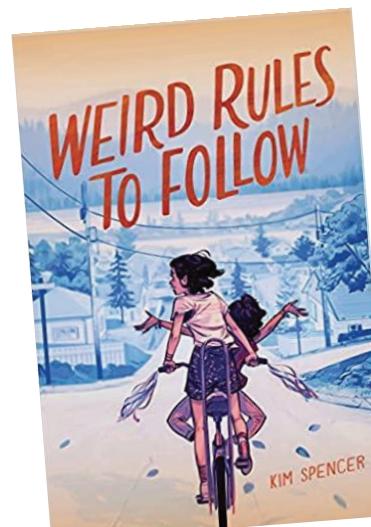
I was recently admitted to the Minden hospital with severe bleeding from my scalp. I had lost a lot of blood and was in danger of bleeding out.

Dr. Costea and nurses; Ali and Brittlyn quick

actions saved me. I will always be indebted to them. Thank you, thank you.

Hugh Loughran
Minden

HCPL's Book of the Week



Best friends Mia and Lara are from the same neighbourhood, but they have very different lives. Lara lives in a big new house by the ocean with her nuclear family, while Mia's family lives in a shabby old building and includes her grandmother, her alcoholic mother, and a revolving door of aunts, uncles, and cousins. As the girls grow up, they start to realize that there are different "rules" for Indigenous Mia and white Lara, and their paths start to drift apart. Author Kim Spencer's middle grade book is semi-autobiographical, and the gorgeous, lyrical prose evokes the atmosphere and time period of 1980s Prince Rupert, British Columbia. A quiet novel that nonetheless speaks volumes. For ages 11 and up.

Weird Rules to Follow by Kim Spencer is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.



Danielle and Seth Huggins of Precision Carving were among the vendors at the Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival on Feb. 18. /Photos submitted by Chad Ingram



Addison Haag hops on a horse during the Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival on Saturday, Feb. 18. It was the first time the popular event had been held in three years, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Having a ball!

An axe throwing competition was part of the lumberjack show during the Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival on Feb. 18.

Dancing for Ukraine

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It's time to shine up those dancing shoes. On Feb. 25, Dance Happens Here Haliburton (DH3) is presenting Kolomejka for Ukraine at the Haliburton Legion. "Dance is a vital component of the arts and culture community in Haliburton county," said Maryssa Danilko, DH3 member. "This project in particular focuses on efforts to help the Ukrainian community. Ukrainian dance is so important in the cultural fabric of the community, and we feel the need to help any way we can in regards to war efforts."

Some may recall a similar event was held in 2017 at Haliburton School of Art + Design. The event garnered over 100 attendees, and offered traditional Ukrainian music, food, and dancing. DH3 hopes to make the primary focus of this Kolomejka will be fundraising in light of the Russian invasion of the Ukraine in 2022.

One of the dancers this year will be Vincent Rees. While Rees is heavily involved in the Ukrainian dance scene, he also established the Cobblestone Freeway Foundation (CFF) in 2020 to assist individuals through the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, the fundraising efforts were shifted to assist those in need due to the invasion of Ukraine.

Joining Rees will be Ukrainian dancers

Jenn and Paul Doroniuk from Verba Ukrainian Dance Company. All dancers will be showcasing their own performances, but then they will turn it around to the audience for involvement. "Our goal is for local community members to come and be immersed in Ukrainian culture," said Danilko. This includes traditional clothing, food, music, and dance.

According to a DH3 press release, the tradition of Kolomejka as a social dance started in Western Canada in the 1950s and 1960s. It begins with participants forming a large circle, then eventually forming a spiral, with individuals or small groups taking turns in the middle to perform. All attendees are encouraged to join in, but are welcome to watch from the sidelines if they prefer.

Danilko shared with the *Times* that this particular event is near and dear to her heart, based on her own Ukrainian descent. "As a Ukrainian dancer myself, I have always had a love for the dance and culture and feel the need to always support in any way I can," she said. "My mother would be proud to have her daughter supporting the community as she once did."

Kolomejka for Ukraine is on Feb. 25 at the Haliburton Legion. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with dancing starting at 7. Adult tickets are \$25, \$15 for students and youth, and kids under 18 are free. For more information, visit www.dancehappenshere.com

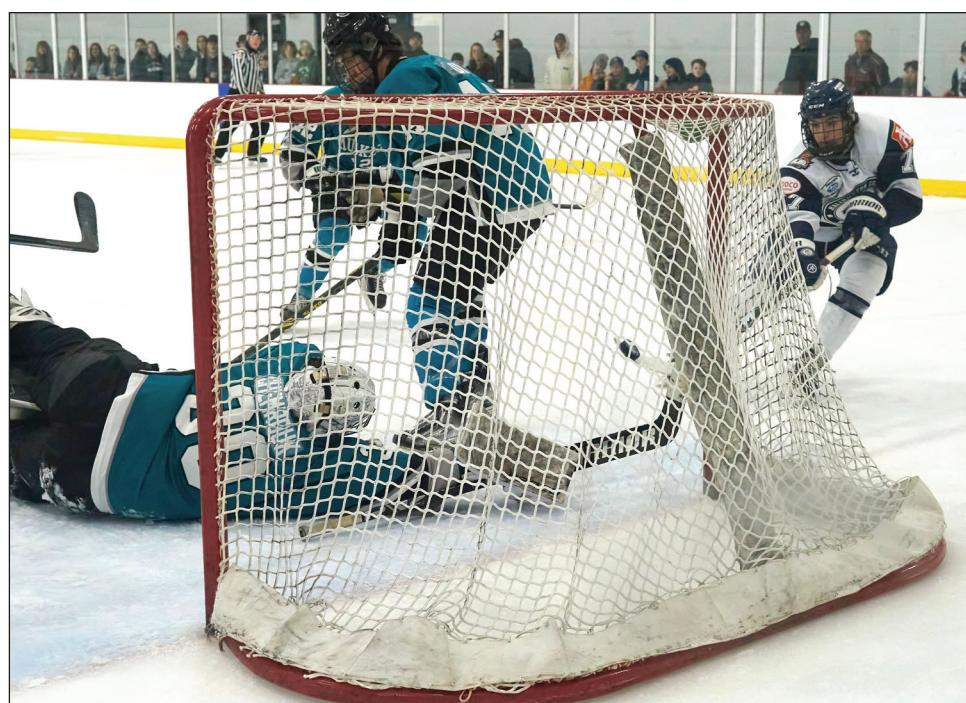


Ukrainian dancers engaged the crowd during the last Kolomejka that was held in 2017. The dancers will be returning on Feb. 25 at the Haliburton Legion. / photo submitted



Family Day with the Huskies

A celebration was held before the Feb. 20 Huskies game to celebrate the eight graduates on the team. Pictured are the graduating Huskies and their families with some members of the team staff. From left, the players graduating are: 71 - Josh Currie, 9 - Zack Terry, 30 - Aidan Spooner, 42 - Boyd Stahlbaum, 77 - Ty Collins, 7 - Sam Solarino, 17 - Christian Stevens, 10 - Isaac Sooklal. / TIM YANO Special to the Times



Ty Collins sneaks in a goal in from behind after Christian Stevens' attempted goal was blocked and went off to the side, resulting in a 3-1 lead for the Huskies against the Lindsay Muskies. The Huskies went on to win the game 5-1.



Captain Christian Stevens fist bumps with fans.

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It's a small world; a focus on farm-to-table practices

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

There's a shift happening in the way we see our food, and Andrea Salvatori and Thalia Nash are paving the way for these changes in our community.

The two recently presented a film called *The Seeds of Vandana Shiva* on Feb. 10 at the Fish Hatchery. The event was entry by donation, with all proceeds being split between the Hatchery and the Minden Community Food Bank - Community Gardens start-up.

The documentary film focused on the life and legacy of Vandana Shiva. Shiva is a scientist, activist, author, and philosopher who has dedicated her life to bringing awareness to the health of the planet.

"Vanadana's strong voice advocates to keep the weight of power with small farmers by promoting local as opposed to large corporations involvement in agriculture," said Salvatori, "[she] connects a wide variety of life concepts together, always circling back to self sustainability, food, water and soil health."

The crux of the documentary is the holistic approach to anti-GMO farming, which promotes health and sustainability for all living creatures.

Salvatori and Nash are no strangers to the subject. Both share a background in health sciences, with Salvatori as a natural nutrition clinical practitioner and the owner of Root to Sun Nutrition, and Nash as a registered practical nurse. The duo have a mutual interest in farming from the land. "We have



Root to Sun Nutrition founder and the host of the evening, Andrea Salvatori, makes opening remarks before the screening of the film. /ADAM FRISK, special to the Times

a lot of overlapping interests," they told the *Times*, "the largest one being the health of our soil which leads to nutrient dense foods." They shared that some of these interests also include living off-grid, homestead farming,

and organic practices applied to a multitude of experiences.

They agree that *The Seeds of Vandana Shiva* documentary has had a ripple effect on the natural farming world as a whole. "The

interesting thing about this documentary is its ability to depict the evolutionary history of agriculture and the by-products that it has created," they said. "It is eye opening and inspiring to see what she has been able to accomplish in changing history for the better."

Exploring hyper-local alternatives to food production and consumption are a key takeaway on the viewing of the film. Together, Nash and Salvatori provided viewers with a list of nine different Haliburton County-based farmers who revolve their practices around sustainability, as well as a handful of local businesses and restaurants who utilize the farm-to-table mentality.

The duo hope that the powerful voice that was articulated by Shiva throughout the documentary will inspire local farmers to dive into sustainable practices, and residents of Haliburton County to take an interest in where their food comes from. "A healthy environment, and healthy food directly connects to our health as humans," Salvatori said. "Some questions to ask yourself: Is your food laden with pesticides and herbicides? How healthy is the soil your food was grown in? How clean is the water that sustains your food? Buying local food gives you the opportunity to ask your farmers these questions."

They shared that the success of the film has sparked an interest in the topic, and they hope to have a second viewing soon, for all those curious about learning more.

For a full list of local farmers to support, visit www.harvesthaliburton.com/farm-gate-sales.html.

A second chance

Carol Browne, left, and Barb Fawcett work on repairing an item of clothing at SIRCH's Repair Cafe on Sunday, Feb. 12 at the SIRCH Bistro. 63 community members were able to bring in clothing, electronics, ceramics, glassware, and appliances to be fixed free of charge by one of 19 volunteers. The next Repair Cafe will take place on March 25 at the Minden Community Centre. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



A number of lamps were brought in for repair at SIRCH's Repair Cafe on Sunday, Feb. 12 at the SIRCH Bistro.



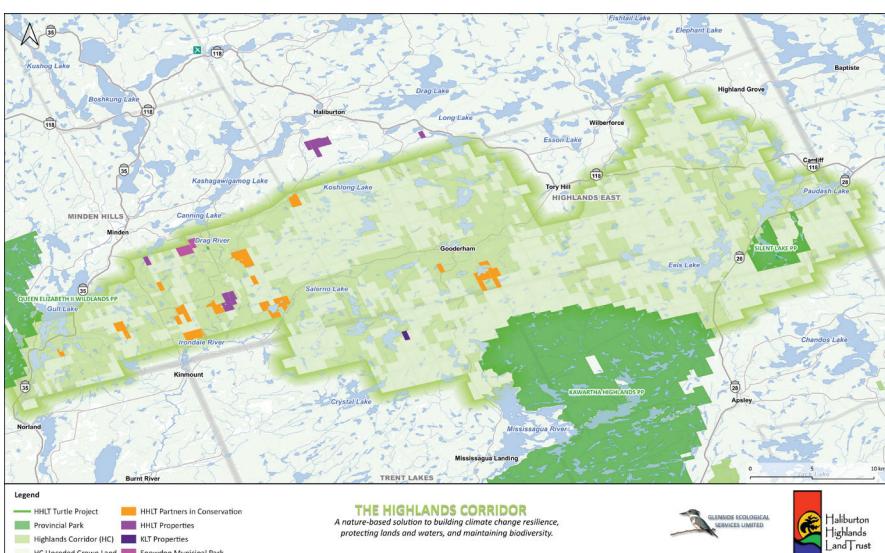
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www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca or call 705-457-3700**

Join Shelley Hunt, HHLT chair, and wildlife biologist, Paul Heaven, to learn more about the significance of the Highlands Corridor, HHLT's strategies for protection and how you can help. For more information go to www.highlandscorridor.ca



Learn about this wildlife corridor, a nature-based solution to building climate change resilience, protecting lands and waters, and maintaining biodiversity.

Rainbow Registration welcomes all

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

A space to feel welcome. A space to feel safe. A space to feel seen. Everyone deserves that feeling.

That's why the Canadian Gay and Lesbian+ Chamber of Commerce (CGLCC) is inviting businesses to receive their Rainbow Registered accreditation program for 2SLGBTQI+ friendly spaces.

"Not only is having 2SLGBTQI+ friendly policies in your company the right thing to do – it's also good for business," the CGLCC website states. So far, only two Haliburton County businesses are Rainbow Registered. Sunny Rock Bed and Breakfast received their accreditation two years ago, and Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve was just approved recently.

"Being Rainbow Registered doesn't mean we just put up a rainbow flag for Pride Month," said Tegan Legge, general manager of the Forest, "it means everything. It's our language, our pronouns, our harassment policies, our employment opportunities, our marketing, our collaboration."

Legge shared that she is overjoyed at being Rainbow Registered. "It's going to make it easier for people to find us, and know we offer a safe and welcoming space for everyone."

When businesses earn the accreditation, they are added to the CGLCC directory, and meet regularly and consistently to showcase their offerings, events, and business visions together.

Sally Moore, the owner and operator of Sunny Rock, was amongst the first to join the CGLCC. Now, there are over 160 businesses across Canada who are involved.

Moore shared that over her years in the tourism sector, she has witnessed first-hand the disparaging treatment towards members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community. "I think it's really important to create a safe space for people," she said. "There are lots of different opportunities for people to experience the Haliburton Highlands."

She told the *Times* that through her years of seeing defamatory treatment, she made it her personal goal to create that space where everyone felt welcomed. "I wanted to create that personal safe space, and in order to do that, I came across this process of meeting the Canadian standard."

Moore noted that while all businesses, organizations, and groups are allowed to apply for the accreditation, not all will necessarily be approved. She shared that in order to qualify, individuals should have some level of involvement and interest in the 2SLGBTQI+ community, and must be dedicated to welcoming everyone, at all times.

"It's a good process to go through when you apply," she said. "Sometimes, there are things you think you're doing right, but the process makes you really sit back and think, 'hey, maybe I can be doing this better.'"

Upon receiving accreditation to be Rainbow Registered through the CGLCC, businesses will receive a welcome kit that includes a decal to let visitors know they are a safe space, as well as a graphic to add to their social media and website. Any and all businesses and organizations can apply, and currently, there is no fee to be involved.

"If you feel like you can provide a safe space for everyone, then you should be considering this process," said Moore. Everyone deserves to feel welcome. To learn more about becoming rainbow registered or the CGLCC as a whole, visit www.cglcc.ca/programs/rainbow-registered/



The staff at Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve have routinely celebrated Minden Pride for years, but are happy to be officially Rainbow Registered so that their facility is welcoming to everyone. From L to R, Tegan Legge, Marena Wigmore, Cameron Ferguson, Ines Lancia, and Melissa Pockett celebrate Pride Week in 2022. /photo submitted

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Fear of the Unknown

My back feels sore, but I'm sure it will work itself out." I would say this mantra to myself, ignoring the discomfort brewing steadily in the base of my spine. I was young and strong; no need to be bothered by this on again off again ache that was my new normal. Often I would take an Advil and move on, never giving it another thought. Catch. Drive. Finish. Recovery. I would do this on repeat, sometimes for more than an hour at a time. Training, getting stronger and more efficient, ready to push my rowing shell through the water come spring.

I can still remember the blinding pain. A lightning bolt that shot from my lower back down my right leg. I couldn't move. I was terrified. What was this?! Why was this happening? My lower back felt as though it had exploded, and with every movement it got worse. Panic spread through my veins as I lay on the floor in my bedroom in North Bay, ON., where I attended Nipissing University for my undergraduate degree. I knew I had to get to a doctor. Something was seriously wrong.

It was this experience that set me on my trajectory to becoming a chiropractor. Chiropractors are experts of the musculo-skeletal system, simply put: the bones, mus-

cles, and joints. This system gives your body its structure and support and lets you move around. I wanted to understand the human body, to understand and be able to answer the question "why?" So that no person ever had to feel the way I did that day.

One of the most debilitating issues we see in our practice is complaints of lower back discomfort. The majority of adults are likely to experience this at least once in their lifetime. In my experience, understanding where the pain is coming from is half the battle. It is important to understand that there are various pain generating structures in the lower back. This is not a one size fits all sort of issue. Different anatomical structures and pathophysiological functions can be responsible for lumbar pain. The muscles, intervertebral discs, facet joints, spinal cord, and the nerves exiting the spine are all examples of areas that need to be assessed to determine the source of discomfort. The treatment plan depends on the diagnosis. This means that there are different guidelines and treatments depending on what is happening in the lower back.

If you have experienced lower back pain, I strongly encourage you to find the source. This can be daunting in itself as most people are unsure of where to start. I recommend



KASSIE BRADLEY
Wellness Corner with Kassie

getting a thorough assessment from either a chiropractor or physiotherapist. Clinics and treatment styles vary and my advice is to do your research and find a fit that works for you. We are blessed in Haliburton County to have a wide variety of practitioners and multiple treatment options available to help those

in need.

I challenge you to not fear your pain, but understand it, and learn how to beat it. I challenge you to stop ignoring it, stop masking it, and find out the source so you can live a healthy, active life.



Minden and District Lions Club treasurer Kelly Moore accepts money during their toll collection fundraiser on Bobcaygeon Road in July, 2022. The club has contributed to various efforts such as Music by the Gull, Community Care, and youth sports. /FILE PHOTO

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cell: 705.457.0364

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Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 14

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Where there is a need, there is a Lion

A note from the Minden Lions Club

Since 1917, men and women around the world have stepped forward to provide assistance to those in need amongst us. Lions often do their work serving their fellow humans out of the limelight. They often say that they are the "world's best kept secret" as they perform their charitable acts. Recently, Lions have been part of the effort to provide shelter and food to those in Turkey and Syria after the deadly earthquakes. Lions were on the ground in the Atlantic provinces after Hurricane Fiona hit in September, and twice, with the support of clubs from across our District and Lions Clubs International Foundation, the Minden Lions were able to provide supplies here in our town after the floods of 2013 and 2017.

Yes, Lions are there to fill a void.

The Minden Lions Club was Chartered in 1985, and over the nearly 4 decades have been quietly going about their business serving the community we all live in. Over the next few months, we will review some of those acts, and bring news of upcoming activities. The club does not stand alone, as they are part of an International Association with over 1.4 million members worldwide. Locally, clubs in Haliburton, Kinmount and Dorset share in serving the residents of Haliburton County. Today, we will introduce you to our family and our goals.

Lions are people just like you. Hardworking, community minded individuals who accepted the challenges of making a difference. "One cannot get very far until you start doing something for everybody else" was how Melvin Jones, a Chicago business man introduced the concept of Lionism

when he helped to found the Association. And after Helen Keller challenged Lions to become "knights of the blind in our crusade against blindness," Lions worked with the blind and those with vision impairment for most of their first 100 years. Lions founded the Lions Foundation of Canada in 1980 to train and supply Seeing Eye Dogs and Hearing Ear Dogs (Guide Dogs) in Oakville. But the focus has expanded over the years, and in 1992 Lions Clubs Camp Kirk Foundation partnered with the Friends of the Learning Disabled to operate a summer camp for youth. Both are programs that the Minden Lions have supported over the years. Now, in 2023, Lions have identified global areas of need, the Five Pillars of Service – Vision, Diabetes, Environment, Hunger, and Childhood Cancer. While each local Lions club continues to focus on local service needs, they support these International goals as well.

Many of their projects only require elbow grease and hard work, but fundraising is important to provide financial aid for programs like the Food Bank, Local youth activities and sports, our hospital and health care, just to name a few. The Lions operate a monthly Spaghetti Dinner at their hall (fourth Friday of the month), a Charity Golf tournament, Annual Road Toll, and currently, in partnership with the Minden Kin Club, have been running a food booth at the weekend Ice Races. If you have any questions or are looking to become active in serving your community, contact the Minden Lions at mindenlions@lions16.com.

Land Trust strives to protect Highlands Corridor

On Friday, Mar. 3 at 7 p.m., Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott will be at the Haliburton Outdoor Association's Fish Hatchery, as the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) introduces their exciting new initiative to protect the Highlands Corridor. Protecting the Highlands Corridor offers a nature-based solution to climate change resilience, protecting lands and waters, and maintaining biodiversity. Shelley Hunt, HHLT Chair, and Paul Heaven will

present HHLT's strategies for protecting this valuable wildlife corridor. Photo and interview opportunities will be available. For more information, please contact: Christel Furniss at 705-457-3700 or admin@haliburtonlandtrust.ca you can also visit www.highlandscorridor.ca or www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca

Submitted

OPP warn against falling for romance frauds

The OPP and our law enforcement partners continue to see the devastating effects associated to romances frauds, from financial losses to significant mental health trauma.

According to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC), Canadian romance fraud victims reported losing over \$59 million to fraudsters in 2022. Ontario victims represented over \$20 million of those losses.

In 2022, the CAFC received fraud reports totaling a staggering \$530 million in victim losses. This was nearly a 40 per cent increase from the 2021, unprecedented \$380 million in losses. It is estimated that only five to 10 per cent of victims report scams and frauds to the CAFC or law enforcement.

What is a romance scam?

Romance fraudsters prey on victims looking for a partner, companion or love interest. In this digital world, scammers use technology to convince victims to enter into a virtual or online relationship, to gain a victims' trust and affection. This can occur through e-mail messages, popular encrypted chat applications, online chat groups, fake profiles on social media, dating sites or even through online platforms where likeminded people hangout online.

A new trend has the fraudsters sending random text messages to victims. The messages often read, "Where are you? Where have you been?" or something similar. Once the victim responds, a conversation is started, and the fraudster attempts to build a relationship with the victim.

Eventually the scammer asks for money for travel, a medical emergency or assistance with a family emergency or convince the

victim to invest into a fraudulent cryptocurrency platform. Remember...there is always urgency and associated drama like an old soap opera. The scammers might also ask you to receive money and transfer the funds elsewhere, or purchase items and send them to foreign countries. The scammer always makes excuses for not being able to meet in person, travel to see you, or use video conferencing to talk. Remember if it seems too good to be true, it often is!

How to protect yourself?

- Don't give out your personal information (name, address, DOB, SIN, banking credentials).
- Don't accept friend requests from people you do not know.
- Don't invest your money in platforms provided by people you don't know.
- Be careful who you share images with. Suspects will often use explicit pictures to extort victims into sending more money.
- Protect your online accounts.
- Never send money to someone you haven't met.
- Don't respond to text messages from phone numbers you do not recognize.
- Learn more tips and tricks for protecting yourself.

If you fall victim to a fraud or know someone who has, contact your local police service to report the crime and also report it to the CAFC at 1-888-495-8501 or online on the Fraud Reporting System (FRS), even if a financial loss did not occur.

Submitted by Ontario Provincial Police

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land more particularly described as follows:

1. File No. PLSRA2022033: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Twelve Mile Lake, lying in front 1004 Minstrel Court located within Lot 13, Concession 11, Geographic Township of Minden

2. File No. PLSRA2022065: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake, lying in front of 1045 Disk Drive located within Lot 9, Concession 1, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

3. File No. PLSRA2022068: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Twelve Mile Lake, lying in front of 1017 Minstrel Court located within Lot 13, Concession 11, Geographic Township of Minden

You can provide input by making a written submission to the Township. To provide input in writing, please contact the undersigned or e-mail adougherty@mindenhill.ca no later than March 25, 2023.

The Council meeting to consider a by-law to stop up, close and convey those parcels listed above will be scheduled for a later date. Should you wish to be notified when a Council meeting has been scheduled, please contact the undersigned or email adougherty@mindenhill.ca no later than March 25, 2023.

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Building and Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or by visiting www.mindenhill.ca/newsroom.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience. If deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
Township Planning Consultant
705-742-2297x278
adougherty@mindenhill.ca

What does a public library board do?

by CHRIS STEPHENSEN
Special to the Times

The library staff and administration team at Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) were excited to welcome our new, incoming library board in early January. These nine members include four appointed public members, four elected members from each municipality who also sit on County Council, and the Warden of Haliburton County, who sits as an ex officio member. At our first meeting on Jan. 11, a board chair and vice chair was nominated and chosen.

A warm welcome to the new Board members of the Haliburton County Public Library.

- David O'Brien (library board chair, Public Appointment)
- Lisa Schell (library board vice chair, deputy mayor of Minden Hills)
- Liz Danielsen (county warden, ex officio member)
- Jennifer Dailloux (deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands)
- Walt McKechnie (deputy mayor of Dysart et al)
- Cec Ryall (deputy mayor of Highlands East)
- Adele Espina (Public Appointment)
- Paul Petric (Public Appointment)
- Tim Casey (Public Appointment)

Library board members serve a four year term and attend a minimum of 10 meetings per year. Typically, we break from meeting in July and August. Such a board in Ontario is guided by the Public Libraries Act, R.S.O 1900, c. P44, which indicates that public libraries in our province must be operated under the management and control of a public library board. It's the legal authority providing governance, decision-making, accountability, policy creation and review, and it's also the board's role to oversee and monitor the library's performance. Put simply, while the library board doesn't exist to run the library, it ensures that the library is properly run.

Advocacy, fundraising, and the review and development

of library policies are some of the key areas the board may focus on through the year. Various working committees will be formed to address these important parts of library life, and our 2022-2027 Strategic Plan and the Annual Work Plan will help guide the progress. As well, the new board members will tour our library system's branches, approve financial statements once they're presented by the auditors, and review and approve regular and special reports, such as the annual Facilities Report. The board also reviews branch opening hours and the fees we charge, and it will confirm holiday closures. A substantial task is to discuss, draft, and approve the next years' budget, and this is usually started in September. The year wraps up by appraising the CEO's performance and completing a board evaluation, as the members provide feedback about the effectiveness of the board.

Over the course of the next nine board meetings this year, administrative library staff will make presentations explaining their role and providing updates in key areas such as collections, technology and systems, marketing and communications, or programming and outreach. As you can imagine, ongoing communication between a library's board, staff, and patrons is important to the functioning of a high-quality library service. Internal and external communications are something we spend a lot of time on. As we often say, there's not much point in putting effort into creating great library programs and services if community members aren't made aware of them! Another communication pipeline occurs between the library board and the local councils. In June, we'll publish the HCPL Annual Report. This will be a mid-year snapshot of our accomplishments thus far, and the board chair and library CEO will present this as a delegation to our four municipal councils, plus the county council. It's an opportunity to discuss library service publicly and answer questions the representatives may have about our operations or strategies.

Of course, Haliburton County Public Library doesn't operate as a standalone library system, even with its eight service points. We are members of several library organizations such as the Federation of Public Libraries (FOPL), the Administrators of Rural and Urban Public Libraries of Ontario (ARUPLO), the Ontario Library Consortium

(OLC), the Ontario Library Service (OLS), and the Ontario Library Association (OLA). These groups help provide organizational guidelines, staff training, board orientation, and so many other things that a busy library may be unable to tackle on their own. Memberships in library organizations help us advocate for public libraries and their funding at all levels of government, but they often increase our collective purchasing power for software and digital platforms that all libraries may use. It's the reason, for example, why a library of our size is able to negotiate cost-effective access to over 90,000 eBooks and audioBooks.

The field of librarianship is characterized by a high degree of information sharing. The library CEOs at Ontario libraries meet online regularly and discuss ideas, challenges, and approaches on an active email Listserv, to support each other. Conferences are organized so that staff at all levels of public libraries can attend, present, and learn new methods and concepts from colleagues. It's a place to debate and discuss the challenges of the profession, and hopefully find renewed inspiration along with solutions.

In fact, some of our staff represented Haliburton County Public Library at OLA's library Super Conference in Toronto in January. This was our first in-person conference appearance since 2019. Our tech and systems Librarian gave a presentation about the digital accessibility aspects of our library's new website. The presentation is titled Practical Digital Accessibility for Public Library Websites, and we co-presented with staff from the web development company we worked with last winter.

In summary, many committed people are involved in planning, overseeing, and running a great public library. We thrive on feedback from our community, and we love to see people signing up for new library memberships. Each person who shows up to run or attend a program, or simply uses a library's services, makes the organization better and our community stronger. Libraries really are community hubs, or the municipal living room, or the heart of a town – call us what you like, but we hope you'll stop by and see us this year. It would be great to welcome you and tell you more.

Here comes the sun

The Dawson Hamilton Memorial Rink is set up at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, and was used by many over the Family Day weekend. The rink will stay open to visitors as long as conditions cooperate. /TIM YANO Special to the Times



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*The deadline for submission is
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Housekeeping/Laundry - Full Time, Temporary, Contract

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Expected Start date: Spring 2023

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*In Loving Memory of
Lisa Kerr (nee Cusato)*

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Lisa Kerr (nee Cusato). After one last Valentine's Day together, Lisa fell asleep peacefully at home by the warm fire holding the hand of Bill Kerr—the love of her life. Lisa was the best possible mother to her four children: Steven (partner Emerald), Ryan (wife Christine), J.J. (partner Talia) and Loretta (husband Renato). Lisa cherished her parents Loretta and Michael Cusato and her siblings Michael (wife Leslie) and John (wife Isabelle). Since her diagnosis of brain cancer in June, Lisa has been surrounded by her loving family every step of the way.

Lisa graduated from Western Law School in 1987. Since making Minden her home in 1998, Lisa has had a tremendous impact on the county. Her most notable contribution was starting and nurturing the Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County. She loved showing quirky films with Those Other Movies, laughing with her book club The Coaster Club, and being the "World's Okayest Violin Player" in the Highlands Chamber Orchestra.

We would like to send a special thank you to nurses Kerri, Alex, and the whole palliative care team at the Haliburton Hospital for treating Lisa as though she was their own family. Anyone who knows Lisa knows that she radiated joy in everything that she did. She will be missed greatly by many.

For those who cannot attend Lisa's Celebration, speeches will be livestreamed at www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com. It will be available for viewing on Saturday afternoon for a full year and the link for the Celebration is in the Photos and Videos.

Memorial Donations to the Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County (VDO) would be appreciated by the family and can be made online through the funeral home website.



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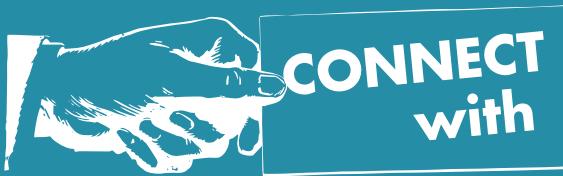
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Monday, March 20, 1989



Ginger Kulas, shown above, is busily preparing for the arrival of Easter by painting the intricate designs needed to create Ukrainian Easter eggs.

Known as pysankies, the eggs are painted by applying the colours one layer at a time. The egg that Kulas is working on in the picture has been dyed completely yellow and she is applying bee's wax to the areas of the design that will remain yellow. When the next layer of colour is applied the dye won't stick to the wax and the yellow will show through in the selected areas.

After all the colours have been added, Kulas removes the wax and varnishes the finished product. Each

design on the egg represents a religious symbol. The continuous lines painted around the middle of the egg are symbolic of everlasting life.

Kulas, and her husband Bill, celebrate Easter in the traditional Ukrainian tradition which involves a large Easter dinner shared among friends and relatives. Kulas says the hand-painted eggs are presented to the guests when they leave. Dark coloured eggs go to the older guests and young guests are presented with lighter coloured eggs.

The eggs are not cooked before they are coloured and Kulas says the yolk represents Jesus laid to rest in the tomb.

County taxes up 7.4%

Spending will hit \$1.9-million this year

Haliburton County Council's 7.4 per cent tax hike isn't a hard pill to swallow, Management Committee Chairman Murray Farry said last Wednesday while introducing the 1989 budget.

"It's more than the rate of inflation, but I think it's not unreasonable," Farry said of the tax increase that will be combined with the education and municipal levies to give the overall tax bill.

To reach the final budget almost every department request had to be trimmed, Farry said. Initially, the 1989 budget translated into a 22 per cent increase, Farry said, "but we couldn't ask tax payers to face that." He said his committee did the best it could to hold the line without stifling the projects the county has initiated.

The county budget is the first of three that make up the overall tax bill. The Haliburton County Board of Education hopes to have its budget finalized by late April. The individual municipalities don't normally complete their budgets until they know what to expect from the board of education.

The county has budgeted to spend \$1,895,801 this year, which is an 8.5 per cent increase over the 1988 budget. Income from other sources than taxation is also up slightly, which tempers the final blow to taxpayers.

ENVIRONMENT: The Environmental Services budget will increase substantially this year because of the anticipated cost of the Waste Management Masterplan. The county is setting aside \$26,000 for the masterplan in addition to the \$1,000 budget for the Water Levels, Acid Rain and Forestry department.

Last year, \$2,000 had been set aside for use for environmental services. Only \$645 of that was actually used.

HEALTH: The county's contribution to the District Health Council will rise to \$87,626 this year, and increase of almost \$8,000. The overall budget for health services is down considerably, though, because no funds are being set aside for the continuing care hospital.

(more on page 14)

Cattlemen urged to make their mark in the 'beef vote'

Beef producers in Haliburton County are being urged to get all the information about the upcoming 'beef vote' and take the time to understand the consequences of this referendum.

"If you have cattle in this county, take the time to find out a little more," says Godfrey Tyler, Haliburton's representative on the Ontario Cattlemen's Association. The outcome of this vote will affect all beef producers, even those who are raising only a few head of cattle each year, says Tyler.

Ontario's beef producers are being asked whether or not they are in favour of a proposed marketing commission to regulate the sales of all beef cattle in the province. Ballots are being mailed out to everyone who had as few as four head of cattle for at least 35 days in 1987 or 1988.

Carm Hamilton, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's agricultural representative for Victoria and Haliburton Counties, says the marketing of beef has

always been a topic of concern. One of the recommendations from a report released one year ago by the beef marketing task force was for a referendum to see if there is enough interest among beef producers to create some sort of marketing association, he said.

Ballots are now out in the mail, and beef producers are being asked if they are in favour of "the proposed producer-controlled marketing commission which would regulate the sale of all beef cattle in

(more on page 8)

The Easter bunny is coming

It's confirmed. The Easter Bunny will be coming to Minden this Saturday.

Minden's Business Improvement Area (BIA) concluded negotiations with the big, cuddly bunny late last week. The floppy-eared hare will be hopping around downtown Minden for two full hours this Saturday and there's a rumour that he may even be bringing a helper with him.

If you want to meet the fuzzy rabbit who will soon be hiding his tasty Easter treats all around the area, be in downtown Minden between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday.





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- Quiet dead end street
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HOUSE ON SOUTH LAKE \$859,000

- 4 Season home or cottage minutes to Minden
- Level lot just under 1 acre
- 100 feet of water frontage
- 3 bedrooms & 1 bath on main floor
- Unfinished basement with walkout to lake

Kelly Mercer
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kelly@kelly-mercier.ca

1224 TOM BOLTON ROAD \$525,000

1 1/2 storey home and hobby farm located on 12 picturesque acres centrally located between Minden and Haliburton - huge country kitchen and dining area - loads of pine cabinets - walk in pantry - living room and family combined - 3 bedrooms - 2 baths - 22 ft. x 48 ft. barn with hay loft - large shed - very private.

Ted Vasey
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This cottage or home sits on 1.2 acres nestled in the trees across from scenic Loon Lake. It exudes warmth with timberframe details, quality finishes and unique touches. Outside offers extensive, professional landscaping that includes flagstone walkways and steps, a stone archway, a covered bbq area. BONUS: a dream 1,750 sq ft heated workshop, Don't miss this one!

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ESSON LAKE \$749,900

- Pretty 2 bed/1 bath & lrg garage
- Premier lake & 3 miles of boating
- Open concept KT/LR/DR; great view
- Mostly updated some finishing to do
- Fantastic swimming, fishing, boating
- Terraced lot; east exp, private rd

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- Two Bathrooms
- Two Driveways Private Setting
- Includes Vacant Lot next Door

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Property includes a two bedroom and three bedroom apartment; small business office, retail store, multiple storage units along with plenty of parking spaces. This property is already generating income. New roof Fall of 2022.

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